REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the Specification

A new Abstract is presented to overcome for the Examiner's objections. Applicant submits that the new Abstract meets all formal requirements.

In the Claims

Claims 1-22 remain in this application. Claims 1-8, 11, 13-15, and 17-22 are amended.

Independent claims 1, 11 and 17 have been amended to more particularly define the "interface between the grip surface and the hand" as a location at an outer surface of the grip surface under a palm, fingers, or palm and fingers of a hand. Support for this amendment may be found, for example, in paragraph [0016].

Other claim amendments are noted below.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 112

In claims 1, 11, and 17, the term "the elements" has been amended for clarity to the phrase "outdoor environmental conditions". Support for this amendment may be found, for example, in paragraph [0004]. Applicant submits that "the elements" is now clearly defined and that the amendment obviates any lack of antecedent basis.

In claim 17, the term "heater coils" has been changed to "heating element" which has antecedent basis in the claim.

In claim 22, the term "heater coils" has been changed to "a said heating element" for consistency with claim 17 and to indicate that it is the same as the heating element recited in claim 17. For further clarity, the phrase "both hand grips" has been changed to "each hand grip" so that each hand grip has a heating element.

Claims 2-8, 13-15 and 18-22 have been amended for consistency with amended claims 1, 11 and 17.

Applicant respectfully requests that the objections be withdrawn.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

US 3,667,315 (Polly, Sr.):

The Examiner has rejected claims 1, 3-6, 8-15, 17-18 and 20-22 as being anticipated by Polly, Sr. (US 3,667,315). Applicant respectfully traverses having regard to the following comments and the amended claims.

Polly, Sr. does not disclose a system or method having a temperature feedback system as presently claimed. As indicated at col. 1, lines 66-68 and col. 2, lines 2-5 of Polly, Sr., the amount of electricity to the heater and thus the amount of heat put out by the heater is controlled by a rheostat **34**. An operator sets the rheostat at a specific value and electricity flows to the heater based solely on the rheostat setting. In order to adjust the heat produced by the heater, it is necessary for the operator to suitably adjust the rheostat. As indicated in paragraph [0004] of the instant specification, this practice is dangerous and inefficient.

Polly, Sr. discloses the use of a thermostat only to prevent overheating and damage to a plastic grip (see col. 2, lines 9-17). The thermostat in Polly, Sr. is not used to provide temperature feedback for automatically controlling the temperature at an outer surface of a grip surface under the operator's hand. This is further evidenced by the sole Figure in Polly, Sr., which shows the location of the thermostat **23** as being up the handle bar away from the location where the operator's hand meets the handlebar. Thus, the thermostat is not at a location to measure temperature at an outer surface of the grip surface under the operator's hand.

Furthermore, the handlebars of Polly, Sr. are constructed with the thermostat built directly into the handlebar and surrounded by a casing **24**. It is evident from the Figure that the casing **24** is not in the plastic grip. Such an arrangement requires that the thermostats be included when constructing the handlebars. In contrast, the system of the present invention can be included as an after-market feature since the temperature sensor can be affixed to the grip surface with an elastic band or rubber or thermoplastic tape. The casing **24** of Polly, Sr. is not such a feature as it is within the handlebar itself.

Applicant submits that the claims are novel and unobvious over Polly, Sr. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

US 2004/0007567 (Downey):

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-22 as being anticipated by Downey (US 2004/0007567). Applicant respectfully traverses having regard to the following comments and the amended claims.

Downey discloses a heated cycle grip in which a temperature sensor is provided near a resistance heating element (see paragraph [0014]. As a consequence, the temperature sensor is subjected to the same changes in ambient temperature conditions as the electrical resistance heating element. As further evidenced by paragraphs [0014] and [0061] and Figures 3 and 5 of Downey, the thermistor and heating elements are located next to each other in an inner sleeve **36** within a casing **56**. The thermally conductive sheet **40** (see paragraph [0060] is not the grip surface as alleged by the Examiner. At such a location, the thermistor will not react well to changes in temperature between the grip and the operator's hand. Instead, the thermistor reacts to changes in temperature around the heating element itself, which is inside the handle and not at a location between the grip surface and the hand. This is in keeping with the Downey's goal of protecting the handgrips from damage due to overheating (see paragraphs [0013], [0018] and [0079]).

In contrast, the presently claimed invention requires that the temperature sensor measure the temperature at a location at an outer surface of the grip surface under a palm, fingers, or palm and fingers of an operator's hand. Thus, the temperature sensor of the presently claimed system measures temperature at an entirely different location than the sensor in Downey. As indicated in paragraph [0012] of the present specification, a system of the presently claimed invention that measures temperature at an outer surface of the grip surface under the hand more accurately and effectively controls the hand's temperature than a system that includes a thermistor which monitors ambient air temperature.

Thus, the location of the temperature sensor is important to the comfort of the operator. The system of the present invention provides that comfort while Downey does not. Downey does not appreciate the importance of locating the thermistor at a location where it can accurately measure the temperature at the outer surface of the grip surface under the hand. In fact, by teaching a thermistor location proximate the heating element, Downey teaches away from the present invention.

Furthermore, since the thermistor, heating elements and other electrical components are located well inside the handle, construction of Downey's handgrips requires installation of all of the electrical components at the time of construction. In contrast, the control system of the present invention can be included as an after-market feature since the temperature sensor can be affixed to the grip surface with an elastic band or rubber or thermoplastic tape. The casing **56** and sleeve **36** of Downey are not such a feature.

Additionally, Downey is concerned with motorcycles. Consequently, the electrical components described in Downey require the motorcycle's battery, which provides DC. The system of the present invention is not limited to DC or AC, but is preferably employed on snowmobiles of which the majority do not have batteries but which provide AC from the alternator or regulator to power the system.

Applicant submits that the claims are novel and unobvious over Downey. Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendment and remarks, reconsideration on all claims is respectfully requested. In the event any matters remain to be resolved in view of this communication, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned so that a prompt disposition of this application can be achieved. Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

ANISSIMOFF & ASSOCIATES

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